Accidents on NHs in Tamil Nadu

2575. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of accidents are occurring on the National Highways in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the preventive steps that have been taken to reduce road accidents in Tamil Nadu;

(c) whether any of the suggestions of Road Safety Forum being implemented in other States would be tried in Tamil Nadu; and

(d) the steps proposed to enhance road safety in Tamil Nadu, increase ambulances, road safety measures and trauma facilities on the highways in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Based on the report received from Government of Tamil Nadu, the number of accidents occurring on National Highways in Tamil Nadu is around 20000 per year.

(b) Government has taken a number of steps so as to bring down reduction in accidents on National Highways in Tamil Nadu. Out of the total length of 4462 km, around 2800 kms are being upgraded from two-lane to four-lane divided carriageway under National Highways Development Project Phase I, II and III. These would have safety features such as service roads in built up stretches, improved junctions, Road Over Bridges, safe pedestrian crossings and better signs and road markings. The balance two-lane sections are also being improved with safety measures.

(c) Suggestions of road safety forum are duly considered wherever required; and

(d) Provision of adequate safety measures such as service roads, flyovers, underpasses, ambulances, traffic signs, trauma facilities etc have been proposed under National Highways Development Project.

Recommendations on port security

2576. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry had constituted a Committee on 1st May, 2007 under Chairmanship of Chairman, Cochin Port Trust to review the security aspects of all major ports and shipyards under the control of Department of Shipping and recommend further steps to be taken to enhance the security arrangements, within 30 days;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations; and

(c) whether suitable security measures have accordingly been taken?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The recommendations of the Committee are awaited.

NH-17

2577. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that NH-17 from Mangalore to Udippi and Karvar is in a very bad shape;

(b) by when this National Highway would be converted into four-lane;

(c) whether the trucks carrying iron ore and granite weighing almost 40 tonnes ply on this road and have destroyed the road;

(d) if so, the steps proposed to rectify this situation;

(e) whether large number of disastrous accidents have taken place during the last one year or so; and

(f) the, steps taken to prevent such calamities on this National Highway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) A few stretches between Mangalore-Udupi-Karwar section of NH-17 are bad. However, these are already included under ''Renewal Programme'' for the year 2007-08 for improvement.

(b) Four laning of NH-17 is being taken up in a phased manner. The work of four laning from Mangalore to Surathkal is already in progress and is likely to be completed by June, 2008. The stretch from Surathkal to Kundapur has been identified for four laning under National Highway Development Project (NHDP) Phase-III. For the remaining reach from Kundapur to Karnataka/Goa border, the process for engagement of consultant for preparation of Detailed Project Report for four laning is under way. The target date for completion of four laning of the above stretches can be known only after finalization of the Detailed Project Report and award of works.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Overloaded vehicles are plying on this section of NH-17. Ministry has been writing to the State Government for checking the movement of overloaded vehicles as per existing legal provisions. The State Government have already initiated action in this regard by installing a weigh bridge near Shirur (Udupi District) to check the overloaded trucks.

(e) and (f) Some minor accidents have taken place in this stretch of NH-17. However, necessary safety measures like improvement of riding quality, road signage, road marking etc. are taken for avoiding such road accidents. Further, after the conversion of existing two lane road to four lane divided carriageway, the accidents will be reduced significantly.